



**DARK
HORSE
COMICS**
ORCHID

8

ORCHID



TOM MORELLO

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ORCHID

LETTERS BY
NATE PIEKOS OF **BLAMBOT®**

COVER BY
MASSIMO CARNEVALE

Following the deaths of her mother and brother, Orchid has nothing left to lose. Hell bent on revenge, she forms an unlikely trio with a Shadow Rebel, Simon, and a mysterious warrior, Opal.

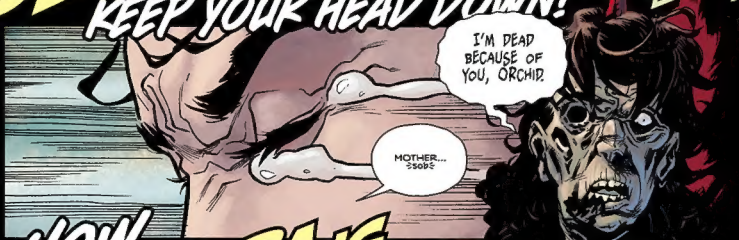
The fight for justice starts when someone starts it. And this fight starts . . . NOW.

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SPECIAL THANKS TO **MICHELE FISHER** AND **DAVE LAND**

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BLAM BLAM BLAM GALLOP GALLOP
KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN!



I'M DEAD
BECAUSE OF
YOU, ORCHID.

MOTHER...
SSOB

HOW MANY? BANG BANG
THE SPIDERS ARE GAINING!
GALLOP GALLOP

YOU SAID
YOU WOULD PROTECT
ME, ORCHID...AND
YOU DIDN'T.



SSOB
YEHZU.
SSOB

**GET TO
THE TREE LINE!**

BLAM BLAM KABOOM

IT WAS YOU
WHO LED ME TO MY
DEATH, ORCHID. IT WAS
ALL YOUR FAULT.



AND...OPAL.
SSOB

NONE OF
US COULD HAVE
SAVED THEM,
ORCHID! NOW,
HOLD ON!



STEADY,
SIMON! STAY
CLOSE!

**BLAM BLAM
BLAM**



CAN'T YOU GO
ANY FASTER?
THEY'RE ALMOST
ON US!

I'M
TRYING!



THIS
SHOULD
SLOW 'EM
DOWN.



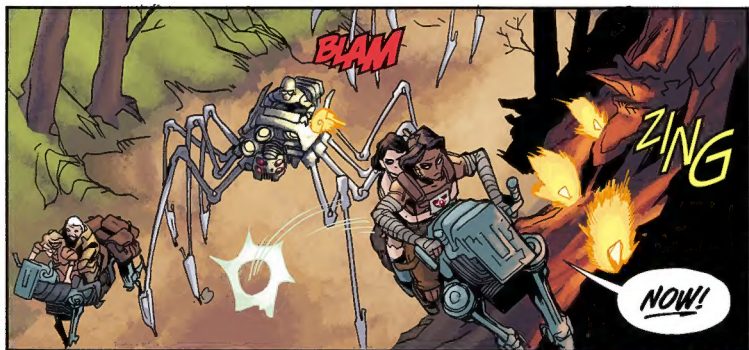
KRAKY

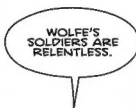


VEER
RIGHT ON
MY SIGNAL,
SIMON!

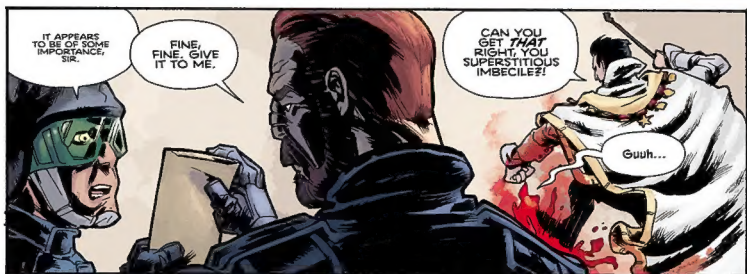
ON MY
SIGNAL,
SIMON...!

ANZIO,
CAN WE SWITCH
HORSES? I'M VERY
UNCOMFORTABLE. DOES
YOURS HAVE A SOFTER
SADDLE? I'VE GOT
BRUISES ALL OVER
MY--











SOON.

...YES, YOU HEARD ME CORRECTLY. WE ARE GOING TO **EXTERMINATE** THE BRIDGE PEOPLE... EVERY MAN, EVERY WOMAN, AND EVERY CHILD!

WE MUST USE OUR **FULL** RESOURCES TO ELIMINATE THESE VERMIN ONCE AND FOR ALL.



WE HAVE AMPLE SLAVE STOCK IN ISCARIOT TO LAST FOR GENERATIONS. WE NO LONGER **NEED** THE BRIDGE PEOPLE. THEY WERE ALWAYS A BLIGHT, AND NOW THEY ARE A **DANGER**.

WE DESTROYED GENERAL CHINA. BUT AS LONG AS **THE MASK** IS OUT OF OUR REACH, IT WILL CONTINUE TO STIR UP **UNWANTED IDEAS**.

WE WOULD NEVER LET OUR ENEMIES HAVE **WEAPONS**. WHY SHOULD WE LET THEM HOLD **DANGEROUS THOUGHTS?**



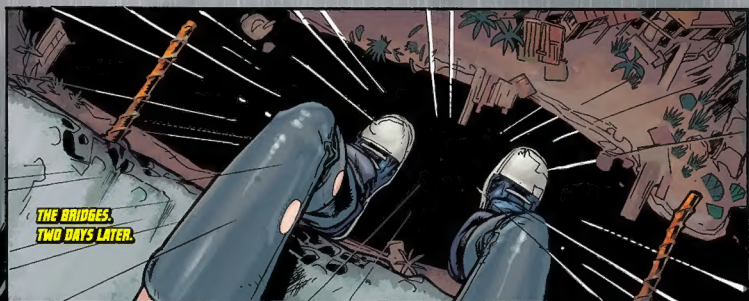
BUT A DANGER RECOGNIZED IS A DANGER DEFEATED! THOSE WHO TODAY ARE SQUEAMISH WILL THANK US TOMORROW ON BENDED KNEES BECAUSE WE COURAGEOUSLY AND FIRMLY TOOK ON THIS TASK.

GATHER THE ARMY'S FULL STRENGTH! THE EXTERMINATION WILL BEGIN IN **THREE DAYS!**

MY LORD, I BELIEVE I CAN GET THE REBELS TO BRING THE MASK TO **US**.



WALK WITH ME, GLETKIN... AND HAVE YOU SEEN BARRABAS? VERY UNLIKE HIM TO MISS A BRIEFING OF THIS IMPORTANCE.







GIVE
ME THE
COURAGE...



...TO
DIE WITH
HONOR...



THERE YOU
ARE! I FOUND
ORCHID OUT
IN THE RAIN
LOOKING
QUITE GLUM.
MAYBE *YOU*
CAN CHEER
HER?

BUT, BUT
YOU'VE GOT
A PLAN,
RIGHT?

I'M AFRAID
NOT, SIMON.
WOLFE'S TROOPS
ARE MASSING
NEAR THE OUTER
BRIDGES. THE
ASSAULT WILL
COME AT DAWN...
AND WE ARE
UTTERLY
DEFENSELESS.



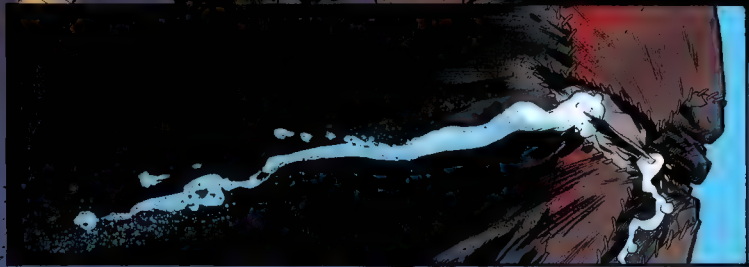
THIS ISN'T
A SCOUTING
PARTY, SIMON!
WOLFE'S
COMING AT
US WITH HIS
ENTIRE ARMY!
ALL WE HAVE
ARE A FEW
MECH HORSES,
TWO PISTOLS,
AND AN OLD
MASK THAT
KILLS PEOPLE
ONE AT A
TIME!

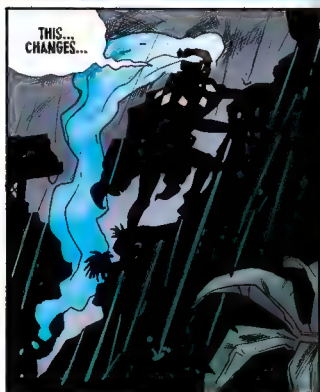
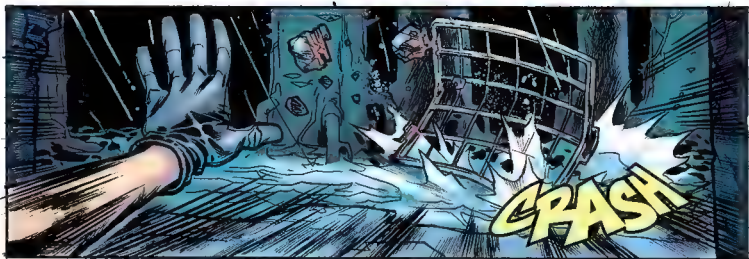
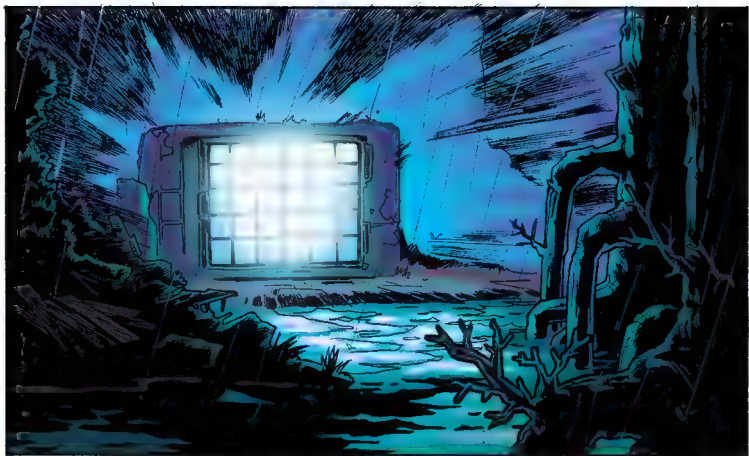
THE
PEOPLE ARE SCATTERED,
COWERING. WORD OF THE
COMING SLAUGHTER HAS
SPREAD, EVEN *WITH* OPAL
WE WOULDN'T STAND A
CHANCE, BUT WITHOUT HER...



OUR SAINT IS *DEAD*
SIMON, AND WOLFE
MEANS TO KILL
US ALL.







THIS...
CHANGES...



...EVERYTHING.



BRIDGE
PEOPLE! COME
OUT! *HIDE* NO
MORE!


IN THE
MORNING, TOMO
WOLFE'S ARMY WILL
MAKE ITS FINAL
ASSAULT!

WE ARE
OUTNUMBERED!
WE ARE UNARMED!
WE ARE WITHOUT
TIME OR HOPE!
YES...WE WILL
ALL BE DEAD
TOMORROW!

HOW THEN TO
DIE? ON OUR KNEES,
COWERING AND ALONE?
OR WILL WE STAND
TOGETHER? WILL WE
FIGHT TOGETHER AS
A PEOPLE?

LOOK AT YOU,
FEARFUL AND TREMBLING!
YOU THINK TO STAND AGAINST
TOMO WOLFE'S MINIONS IS
MAD! THEN I SAY--

**MADMEN
TO ARMS!**



"HAVE COURAGE. FOR I WILL
LEAD YOU IN THE BATTLE
THAT COMES AT DAWN!"

"THE LEGEND OF THE MASK
IS TRUE. ITS POWER IS
REAL. I HAVE BEEN IN
CHAINS MY WHOLE LIFE
AND I WILL BE IN CHAINS
NO MORE! IF YOU ARE
TOO COWARDLY TO FIGHT,
THEN I WILL FIGHT ALONE.

"BUT I SENSE
STRENGTH IN YOU,
A STRENGTH YOU DO
NOT KNOW! LET US
FIGHT TOGETHER AS
AN ARMY OF SHADOW
REBELS--AND IN OUR
FINAL HOUR LET'S
TAKE THOSE
BASTARDS DOWN
WITH US!"

"FOR THE WORLD HAS
BEEN INHERITED NOT
BY THE GOOD, NOT BY
THE MEER, BUT BY THE
TERRIBLE. THERE MIGHT
BE A BETTER WORLD,
ONE DAY, BUT NONE OF
US WILL LIVE TO SEE IT!"

"HEAR ME NOW!
WE ARE WITHOUT
HOPE AND SO WE
ARE FREE. FREE TO
SHED THIS EXISTENCE
IN A BLAZING FIRE
OF REVENGE.

"SO CRY REBELLION
FROM EVERY ROOFTOP
AND Hovel! SOME
FOOL ONCE TOLD ME
THAT THE ESSENCE OF
REBELLION IS LOVE. IT
IS NOT. REBELLION IS
A HAMMER, WHICH
WE WILL USE TO
CRUSH OUR ENEMIES
COME THE DAWN!"

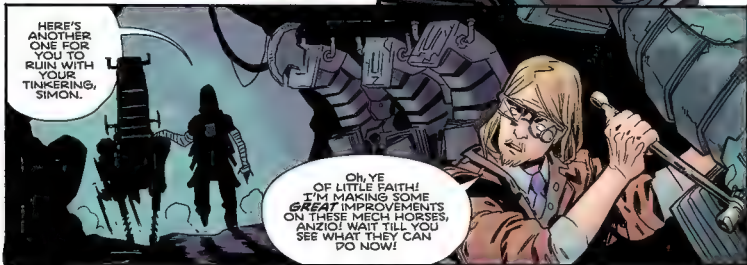
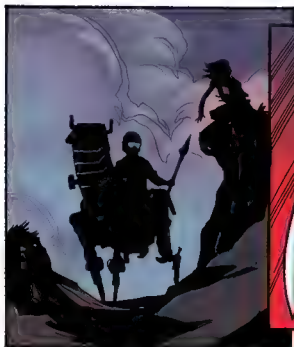
"WE DO NOT
SEEK LIBERTY.
WE SEEK ONLY
DESTRUCTION.
AND THROUGH
DESTRUCTION
WE WILL BE
LIBERATED.

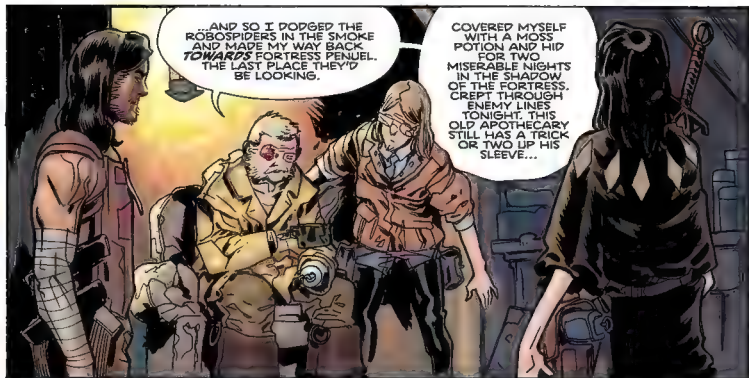
"NO. I AM NOT
GENERAL CHINA.
GENERAL CHINA IS
DEAD. I AM ONE OF
YOU. I AM ALL OF
YOU. CALL ME...
ORCHID.

"I WILL BE YOUR ANGEL OF
RETRIBUTION. I WILL BE YOUR
WARRIOR SAINT. FOLLOW ME
AND LET OUR FOES TREMBLE
AT OUR COMING!"

"FOR THIS IS NOT A
FIGHT FOR WHAT WILL
BE. THIS IS A FIGHT
TO DESTROY ALL
THAT'S GONE WRONG.

"THIS FIGHT IS NOT
TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD--
IT'S TO DESTROY
THIS ONE."







BRIDGE
PEOPLE! THERE WILL
BE **NO TOMORROW**. THE
BATTLE OF THE BRIDGES
IS AT HAND! THE SUN
RISES ON OUR
LAST DAY.

I WAS A
PROSTITUTE AND A
SLAVE FOR THEIR
PLEASURE AND THEIR
PROFIT BUT I AM **NO**
ONE'S PROPERTY TODAY!
WE WERE THE DIRT
BENEATH THEIR FEET...
DOCILE AND FIGHTING
AMONG OURSELVES
OVER CRIMES. BUT
LOOK AT US
NOW!

VALKS AND
BEGGARS! ADDICTS
AND CRIMINALS! THE
HUNGRY AND THE
FORGOTTEN! THE BROKEN
AND THE HOMELESS!
STANDING SHOULDER TO
SHOULDER AGAINST
THE COMING
ONSLAUGHT...

TAKE HEART.
FOR WE ARE **NO LONGER**
ISOLATED. NO LONGER ALONE.
IN OUR **FINAL HOUR** AT LAST
WE HAVE ONE ANOTHER. AND
TOGETHER WE WILL MEET
WHATEVER COMES!

BUT WILL
WE WAIT HERE
LIKE LAMBS
BRACING FOR
SLAUGHTER?

NO! TODAY
WE WILL **STRIKE**
BACK AT OUR
TORMENTORS!

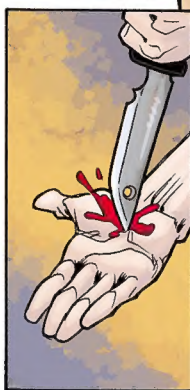


I NEED
EIGHT MARTYRS
TO FOLLOW ME INTO
THE TEETH OF THE
STORM!

WE WILL FIGHT OUR
WAY THROUGH THE **HEART**
OF WOLFE'S ARMY AND INTO
THE DEPTHS OF FORTRESS
PENUEL! THERE OUR **ONE**
HOPE REMAINS.

TOMO WOLFE
DOES NOT KNOW IT...
BUT WE ARE COMING
FOR HIM!







"NOW
WE GO TO
WAR!"

PROPER

PROPER

KNOW YOUR ROLE

TO BE
CONTINUED...

THE SHADOW REBEL READER

E-MAIL US AT: ORCHID@DARKHORSE.COM

WRITE TO US AT: THE SHADOW REBEL READER

C/O DARK HORSE COMICS, 10956 SE MAIN STREET, MILWAUKEE, WI 53222

To learn more about the world of *Orchid* and be entered to win exclusive prizes, text **ORCHID** to **738674**. You don't have to buy a thing; we're just eager to explore innovative ways of bringing readers closer to the stories by providing unique content, news, and prizes.

It's been building for a while, but you can only be backed so far into a corner before you have to lash out. Looks like it's about that time, doesn't it?

Tom,

Believe the hype. Very inspirational! Very engaging and relevant... Big thumbs up from me. I think it's time to start telling stories again.

Dear Orchid staff,

I've just finished reading Orchid #2. I can tell this comic is a living voice, not only because of the great music, but for getting inside my head and making me see we are not so far from the world of Orchid. It's like watching a near future in front of my eyes. Tom Morello is making me think of what I am doing wrong as a human being, and that made Orchid a "must" in my monthly comics checklist.

I've been a fan of Tom Morello's music work since I heard the first *Rage Against the Machine* album. Then, I read about Tom entering the comic world and got excited. I was sure this comic would blow my mind. His work is inspiring for me as a musician and as a comic reader. Congrats to all of the Orchid team! The world can change and it's up to us to make that change come true.

AJS

Sincerely,

Victor V. Flores, Mexico City

P.S. I enjoy even more reading Orchid while listening to music created for it. That's a great plus, especially for me.

Greetings from South Africa!

I'm really excited for this project. It truly sounds fantastic!

I'm wondering if Mr. Morello will be composing a soundtrack for the comic? I can totally envisage him fusing all the elements for which he is known musically into what I would imagine to be a defining record that could be of great historical importance!

I can hear the sci-fi theme that is evident in his "noise" infested guitar solos. (Also, extended into somewhat ambient pieces—

think Amon Tobin's ISAM plus Brian Eno.) Emotional beauty and connection to love, earth, and self mixed with the harsh reality of war, death, pain, and suffering. The power of loud funk rock, blasting energy, fueling dramatic battle scenes, and, of course, the Nightwatchman with his poignant social commentary!

I'd love to have a set of recordings like this to listen to while reading!

Last question: Will the comic be available in South Africa? I imagine it will be for sale online.

All the best, and much love!

Luke

It's always great to hear from international readers while the series is still coming out! Thanks for writing in, guys!

Luke, hopefully you've heard by now that Twin composes music for each issue. The Dark Horse digital store (found at Digital.DarkHorse.com) is the easiest way to get your hands on *Orchid* internationally, so if you haven't been doing so already, head there, grab the issues, and use the accompanying codes to get your hands on the music.

Speaking of, we'd love to hear what you guys think of the music! Also, now that things are really ramping up, let us know what you think of the story so far and where you think it's going. We're pumped and want to hear how psyched you are as well. Drop us a line!

JIM

Jim Gibbons

Assistant Editor



The Shadow Rebels mount an attack!
Orchid #9 on sale September 12, 2012

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